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2013

## Annual Report, 2013

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ANNUAL REPORT  
GRADUATE SCHOOL AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
CALENDAR YEAR 2013

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although the calendar year 2013 was a time of significant change for the Graduate School and International Education, we continued to meet our goals. Our graduate and international applications grew and we increased the diversity of our international students and continued to pursue a number of domestic recruitment strategies aimed at diversity. Several new initiatives allowed us to gain increasing control over international travel and to begin coordination of the various international initiatives on campus. We continued to implement two new software systems, Sunapsis and TerraDotta, to help us in the international realm and began a comprehensive examination of admissions software to make on-line applications and admission a reality. While we lost several staff members, we were able to promote and thus retain others who have shown outstanding service to the University. Our staff attended a number of international events that brought exposure to the University and one staff member coordinated the regional meeting of NAFSA. Our interdisciplinary programs continued to be popular and we started the approval process for a new master's degree in Statistics and Analytics. Our special programs expanded from the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS), centered in Panama, to an initiative in Brazil. We also increased our recruitment of students from Iraq.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES

The year 2013 was again a time of change for the Graduate School and International Education. We lost several staff members for a variety of reasons, but one notable loss was the death of our long-time computer support person, Paul Byers. Our dean, Dr. Todd Shields, became interim Dean of Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and was ultimately selected as the permanent dean of that college. In summer 2013, we also moved back to Ozark Hall to our newly remodeled offices, with a spectacular student lounge providing a home for graduate and international students. As the calendar year ended, we had completed the third annual December commencement ceremony and looked forward to welcoming increasing numbers of both graduate and international students. Other notable achievements and changes during calendar year 2013 include:

- ✓ The Office of Testing Services was recognized for Excellence in Test Security by Pearson VUE. During the 2013-14 academic year, the office tested approximately 12,000 students, prospective students and community members.
- ✓ Officers and volunteers for the University of Arkansas International Students Organization, led by Danilo Tchoupe, organized and implemented the first nationwide gathering of international student organization officers on the UA campus in March 2013. In attendance were 77 student leaders, eight advisors from 37 institutions and 20 states. Responses from attendees were overwhelmingly positive.
- ✓ Michael Freeman, Director of International Students and Scholars, was selected to be the Dean of the J-1 Intermediate Advising Workshop curriculum for NAFSA.

- ✓ Jessica Luhn, in International Students and Scholars, was selected as Employee of the Quarter and later Employee of the Year.
- ✓ 165 international students were matched to 114 families and individuals from the Northwest Arkansas region in the Friendship Family Program.
- ✓ International Students and Scholars facilitated 12 events during the 2013 Spring and Fall semesters with a total of 1,184 participants.
- ✓ The International Culture Team, Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education, and Altrusa International partnered to sponsor this year's cultural immersion, a Dominican Republic Independence Day in March 2013.
- ✓ Dr. Yassaman Mirdamadi, Director of Testing Services, presented "Test Security: Informed and Respectful, Islamic Cultural Traditions" at the 2014 National College Testing Association Conference.
- ✓ The Office of Program Assessment conducted and/or completed seven program reviews during the 2013 calendar year. In addition, Dr. Bill Warnock was asked to accept additional duties as a result of Dean Shields' interim role in Fulbright College.
- ✓ Environmental Dynamics is rated among the top 100 programs in Earth Science. Compared to our benchmarks, ENDY ranked fourth.
- ✓ Students in our Environmental Dynamics Ph.D. program received the American Institute of Indian Studies Hindi Language Fellowship and an Honorable Mention in the national competition for a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and received a Sturgis Study Abroad Fellowship; participated in an international symposium on sea-level rise and adaptation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; served as a spokesperson for the Southwest Sustainability Directors Network during a conference call with Whitehouse staff regarding community resilience planning.
- ✓ The ENDY director, Dr. Steven Boss, received the Faculty Gold Medal for outstanding mentoring.
- ✓ Dr. Valerie Hunt, Associate Director of the Public Policy Ph.D. program, was promoted from Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor.
- ✓ The Space and Planetary Sciences program moved from its location in the old men's gym to Stone House North. Modifications to Stone House North enabled ultra-high-speed Internet capabilities, ADA accessibility to both levels, and a few other modifications. The SPAC research laboratories were moved to Ferritor Hall.
- ✓ Sponsored Student Programs held the annual welcome reception for incoming sponsored students and the recognition reception for those students who graduated. Chancellor Gearhart joined us for the welcome reception. Dr. Mounir Farrah, Dr. Juan Balda, and Ruth Ann Davis with the Housing Department, were recognized for outstanding service to sponsored students.
- ✓ The Fulbright Scholars were awarded the Outstanding New Registered Student Organization of the year in April 2013.
- ✓ Gloria Flores Passmore, Director of Sponsored Student Programs, served as conference planner for the NAFSA Region III Conference held on October 21-24, 2013 in Rogers, AR.
- ✓ Michael Rau, Assistant to Lynn Mosezzo, Director of Graduate and International Admissions and International Recruitment, received the Collis R. Geren Outstanding Graduate School Staff Award in May 2013.

- ✓ The University of Arkansas welcomed a total of 32 PAPSS scholars to campus in January and June 2013.
- ✓ In February 2013, Vicky Hartwell, Director of Graduate Fellowships and Recruitment, assumed responsibility for domestic graduate recruitment in addition to her responsibilities for administering graduate student fellowships and travel grants. This function had previously been under Lynn Mosesso.
- ✓ During 2013, we added San Diego State University and California State University, Monterey Bay as Carver partner schools.

## PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Within GSIE, progress and accomplishments must be judged against our goals, which will provide the framework for this discussion.

**Goal 1:** Advance the visibility and reputation of the University of Arkansas within the nation and around the world and promote the UA as a destination of choice for students and scholars.

The University of Arkansas enrolled an all-time record of 1,387 international students in the fall 2013 semester. The countries sending the largest number of students were China, India, Panama, Bolivia, and Vietnam. The number of international scholars coming to the University increased to 322, which is also the highest number of scholars. China, India, Brazil, Korea and France sent the largest number of scholars to the University.

The Office of International Students and Scholars, together with the International Students Organization and the Alumni Association is developing better outreach to international alumni. There is now a Facebook presence, a quarterly on-line newsletter written by current students, a link on the ISS website to update contact information, and the ability to develop virtual alumni groups.

In Fall 2013, we saw a total of 233 enrolled sponsored students, a slight increase over Fall 2012. Forty-four countries were represented.

Gloria Flores Passmore, Director of Sponsored Student Programs, and Dr. Leyah Bergman-Lanier, Director of Spring International Language Center (SILC), attended the Washington International Education Council Conference in Washington, DC in January of 2013 for training and recruitment purposes. They also visited with several U.S. based organizations and embassies to promote the UA and SILC.

There were 15 new Distinguished Doctoral Fellows and 51 new Doctoral Academic Fellows, for a total of 54 Distinguished Doctoral Fellows and 177 Doctoral Academy Fellows in 2013. Our Distinguished Doctoral Fellows continued to be from the top 1% of all students who attend graduate school; the Doctoral Academy Fellows were from the top 5%.

Our domestic and international recruitment teams presented at a variety of conferences and institutional settings.

**Goal 2:** Initiate and maintain strong connections with, and advocate for graduate, international, and study abroad students and scholars from the time of initial inquiry through post completion.

A total of 250 students actively participated in the International Culture Team (ICT), presenting their culture in at least two events. These students represented 61 different countries.

Our Office of Study Abroad created peer advisor training to promote study abroad through HogsAbroad 1001 presentations and one-on-one advising.

**Goal 3:** Streamline business processes, make decisions efficiently, and ensure timely communication with concerned parties.

The Office of International Students and Scholars made great progress in implementing the software, Sunapsis, which is used to better manage issues pertaining to Homeland Security. The Office of Study Abroad and International Exchange implemented the Terra Dotta Study Abroad Management Tool and website.

Our ISIS team implemented a number of new processes to better and more efficiently serve prospective students, students, faculty and staff and to increase the ease of communications.

**Goal 4:** Actively seek to promote and strengthen strategic relationships with partner institutions, academic units, university departments and the community.

The iFriend initiative in International Students and Scholars received national attention as a meaningful way to connect international students with Americans in an Inside Higher Ed article on March 4, 2013. iFriend has also received requests for information from other institutions interested in starting programs similar to ours.

Several staff members in our various international units presented at the NAFSA Region III conference held in Rogers, Arkansas in October 2013. Of particular note was the first showing of the video “After the Tsunami” created by Larry Foley, in the UA Department of Journalism.

We provide workshops on applying for graduate school to students in Student Support Services.

**Goal 5:** Serve as the central unit for tracking international education mobility.

We established the International Education Advisory Council to provide oversight on study abroad program quality/assessment and international travel for faculty, students, and staff. Also, the new TerraDotta software gives us increased capability to track international travel.

**Goal 6:** Adopt an enrollment management plan to meet university goals:

- Increase the number of quality graduate applications: In Fall 2013 compared to Fall 2012, domestic graduate applications increased by 7.5%, admits increased by 5.7% and enrolled students increased by 4.4%.
- Increase the number of quality international applications: In Fall 2013, there were 1,251 applications from international graduate students compared to 1,129 in Fall

2012. International undergraduate applications increased from 669 in Fall 2012 to 804 in Fall 2013.

- Increase the diversity of applications: We continue to increase applications from students from a range of countries; in Fall 2013, 116 countries were represented on campus, up one from the previous year. The top five countries represented are China, India, Panama, Bolivia and Vietnam. With regard to domestic students, we continue to grow our Carver program, maintain and grow the number of SREB students, and fully commit our Lever fellowships. In 2013, we had 12 doctoral students funded with the SREB-State Doctoral Fellowships. The Benjamin Franklin Lever Tuition fellowship was able to support 47 graduate students whose enrollment added to the diversity of their degree program. Thirty-eight new students received awards in 2013.
- Increase the percentage of enrolled international undergraduate students: International undergraduate students comprised 3.23% of the undergraduate population in Fall 2013 (678 students out of 21,009 total undergraduate students), up from 3.0% in Fall 2012. This was an increase of 67 students.
- Increase the percentage of enrolled international graduate students: International master's student enrollment increased from 11.5% of the total master's enrollment in Fall 2012 to 12.3% of the total master's enrollment in Fall 2013 (307 international master's students out of 2,501 total master's students in Fall 2012). International doctoral student enrollment increased from 28.3% of the total doctoral enrollment in Fall 2012 to 31.05% of the total doctoral enrollment in Fall 2013 (389 international doctoral students out of 1,253 total doctoral students in Fall 2013).
- Increase the percentage of graduate students: The enrollment of graduate students increased from 15.4% of the total University census in Fall 2012 to 15.6% in Fall 2013 (3,942 graduate students out of a total university enrollment of 25,341 in Fall 2013). This was an increase of 165 graduate students.
- Increase the percentage of graduating seniors integrating a significant international experience into their degree programs: In the 2013-14 academic year, we reached a record enrollment of 800 students studying abroad in 48 countries. This is a 9% increase from the previous year.

**Goal 7:** Facilitate the development and management of innovative and educational graduate, international, and interdisciplinary programs.

- In Cell and Molecular Biology:
  - Dr. Adnan Al-Rubaye was hired as associate director of the Cell and Molecular Biology program and was tasked with improving the placement of fully sponsored students. As a result of this, the program is now in a growth "spurt" and is likely to increase from about 60 students two years ago to over 80 in Fall 2014. In addition, the program was successful in securing approval from the Iraqi Cultural Attache for charging "bench fees" for sponsored students in some Iraqi programs.
- The Environmental Dynamics program:

- Has provided an opportunity for the University of Arkansas to establish graduate education leadership in sustainability in a variety of ways including the creation of a graduate certificate in sustainability.
- From 2010-2013, the Environmental Dynamics program averaged 100% retention and achieved an overall completion rate of 78% of students originally admitted to the program and 80% of students either originally admitted or transferring from other programs.
- The ENDY program director represents the University on the National Council for Science and the Environment and the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors. Dr. Boss is also currently Chair of the South-Central Section of the Geological Society of America.
- During 2013, the ENDY program moved from the Fulbright College to the Graduate School, as it continues to involve faculty from colleges across campus.
- ENDY students were very active in the creation of the Graduate Student Congress.
- The Micro-electronics-Photonics program:
  - Graduated eleven master's students and seven Ph.D. students during calendar year 2013.
  - Spent the year preparing for the spring 2014 seven-year program review.
  - Saw 18 publications and presentations by students in 2013.
  - Successfully nominated three new students for Doctoral Academy Fellowships.
- The Public Policy program:
  - Continues to enroll a diverse population of students with 32% domestic minorities and 15% international.
  - The program encourages growth and development in faculty-student research collaborations; as a result of this, 15 manuscripts by their students were accepted for publication or published in peer-reviewed outlets during the 2013 year.
  - In fall 2013, the students working on the capstone project conducted a service-learning project with the goal of identifying what the University of Arkansas can do to better serve students with Type 1 diabetes.
  - The program placed graduates at tenure-track positions at New Mexico State University, the University of Illinois, Springfield, and the University of North Carolina, Asheville.
  - Public Policy and the School of Social Work are proposing a dual track with the Master's of Social Work degree.
- The Space and Planetary Sciences program:
  - At least 20 articles, six invited talks, and 39 other presentations were given at major national and international conferences, workshops and other universities based on research in the Space Center.
  - Research grants totaling \$2,716,239 continued in 2013-14, with \$1,884,609 in grant proposals submitted, mostly to NASA.

- Three students who graduated during 2013 now have postdoctoral positions at prestigious institutions, including Harvard, Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.
- The Statistics and Analytics Program:
  - In 2013, we submitted a proposal for a new interdisciplinary master's degree in Statistics and Analytics, with Mark Arnold as the program director.

**Goal 8:** Develop resources as needed to meet the goals of the GSIE.

During 2013, we drafted a set of strategic objectives and transformational gift ideas for Campaign Arkansas.